

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 221750 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8899

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION NATO

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S E C R E T ROME 4271

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1 DECLASS. IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE. BY DCM.

TAGS: PFOR EEC XF IT

SUBJECT: EC MID EAST EXPERTS MEETING; ITALIAN MID EAST PROPOSALS;
SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MID EAST

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: STATE 096597; ROME 4122

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EC MID EAST EXPERTS REACTED NEGATIVELY TO ITALIAN
MID EAST PROPOSALS. ITALIANS INTEND TO PURSUE PROPOSALS IN LOW- KEY
MANNER AT EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' AND FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS.
EXPERTS ALSO DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING SC DEBATE ON MID EAST. THERE
WAS CONSENSUS THAT AREA SITUATION WAS DANGEROUS AND
DETERIORATING,

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AND THAT US AND SOVIETS WERE OVERLY COMPLACENT ABOUT STATUS QUO. BASED ON RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ISMAIL, FRENCH REPORTED THAT EGYPTIANS DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO PROVOKE US VETO DURING SC DEBATE, BUT HOPE THAT DISCUSSION WILL HIGHLIGHT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AS CAUSE OF IMPASSE, AND WILL GALVANIZE SC, ESPECIALLY GREAT POWERS, TO TAKE ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 22, RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDED EC MID EAST EXPERTS MEETING MAY 21 IN BRUSSELS GAVE US ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSIONS. OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT HE SHOULD BE FULLY PROTECTED AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

3. ITALIAN MID EAST PROPOSALS: ACCORDING SOURCE, EXPERTS GAVE ITALIAN MID EAST PROPOSALS FULL AND POLITE HEARING, BUT HE DESCRIBED REACTION AS GENERALLY NEGATIVE. OFFICIAL SAID THERE WAS DETAILED DISCUSSION WHICH BROUGHT OUT OBVIOUS FLAWS IN ITALIAN SUGGESTIONS, E. G., NO RPT NO POLITICAL CONTENT; UNLIKELIHOOD OF ISRAELI PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS;. QUESTIONABLE RECEPTIVITY IN EGYPT; AND DIFFICULTY OF SECURING FUNDS FROM EITHER GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SOURCES. SOURCE SAID SOME EXPERTS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ITALIAN PROPOSALS COULD BE USEFUL TO SWEETEN ATMOSPHERE, BUT ONLY AFTER NEGOTIATIONS ACTUALLY IN PROCESS. OFFICIAL SAID HE WAS ASKED FOR US ATTITUDE TOWARD ITALIANS PROPOSALS, AND, ACCORDING TO HIS ACCOUNT, HE RESPONDED WITH ACCURATE APPRECIATION OF US POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT

OUTLINED IN STATE REFTEL AND SECRETARY' S MAY 7 LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER MEDICI.

4. OFFICIAL GAVE US RUN DOWN ON INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDES OF SOME EXPERTS. UK WAS NEGATIVE, AND SAID BRITISH HAD COME UP WITH SIMILAR PLAN SOME TIME AGO, BUT IT HAD BEEN VETOED BY BRITISH TREASURY AND FCO DID NOT WISH TO RAISE SUBJECT AGAIN. FRENCH APPEARED MOST RECEPTIVE, BUT SOURCE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FRENCH ATTITUDE MOTIVATED BY DESIRE FOR A EUROPEAN INITIATIVE SO THAT MID EAST PROBLEM NOT RPT NOT LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO US. DUTCH WERE GENERALLY NEGATIVE AND SUGGESTED THAT BALANCING AID WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE PROVIDED TO ISRAEL. DANES ALSO CONSIDERED BALANCING ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL WAS REQUIRED. OFFICIAL SAID BELGIAN EXPERT WAS MOST NEGATIVE OF ALL AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SINCE BELGIAN WOULD PREPARE REPORT FOR POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING ON MAY 24, THAT REPORT

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WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE TONE.

5. OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE WOULD ACCOMPANY FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL

DIRECTOR DUCCI TO BRUSSELS FOR MAY 24 MEETING, AND THAT DUCCI WOULD RESTATE ITALIAN PROPOSALS AT THAT TIME. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, SOURCE SAID ITALIANS DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO PRESS HARD FOR ADOPTION OF THEIR MID EAST PROPOSALS BY EC, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF EXPERTS' INITIALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, ITALIANS DO NOT RPT NOT WISH TO SEE PROPOSALS DIE AND HOPE AT LEAST TO KEEP THEM IN THE " INCUBATOR".

6. OFFICIAL CONFIDED THAT HIS REPORT TO FOREIGN MINISTER MEDICI ON EC EXPERTS' GENERALLY NEGATIVE REACTION TO ITALIAN PROPOSALS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AS BLUNT AS APPRAISAL HE IS PROVIDING TO US. HE EXPLAINED THAT PROPOSALS WERE MEDICI'S BRANCHCHILD, AND HE THOUGHT IT INADVISABLE TO LET FONMIN DOWN ALL AT ONCE. HE EXPECTED THAT MEDICI WOULD GET MESSAGE, AND BE PREPARED FOR PROBABLY NEGATIVE REACTION OF HIS EC COLLEAGUES AT JUNE 4 MINISTERIAL.

7. SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MID EAST: SOURCE SAID THERE WAS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FORTHCOMING SC MID EAST DEBATE, AND GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT AREA SITUATION WAS SERIOUS AND DETERIORATING. HE SAID THAT DESPITE US ASSURANCE THAT IT IS ACTIVE, EXPERTS BELIEVED THAT US DANGEROUSLY COMPLACENT, AND HAD ACCEPTED ISRAELI VIEW THAT STATUS QUO SATISFACTORY. SOVIET COMPLACENCY ALSO WAS CRITICIZED, AND SOURCES IMPLIED THAT EUROPEANS SUSPECT US AND SOVIETS HAVE TACIT UNDERSTANDING ON AREA.

8. ACCORDING SOURCE, FRENCH REPORTED ON RECENT VISIT OF HAFEZ ISMAIL TO PARIS. ACCORDING FRENCH, ISMAIL SAID EGYPTIANS DO NOT RPT NOT WISH TO PROVOKE US VETO WITH PURPOSELY FORMULATED UNACCEPTABLE

RESOLUTION IN SC. ISMAIL IMPLIED CONTINUING EGYPTIAN APPRECIATION OF KEY ROLE OF US. RE WHAT EGYPTIANS EXPECT TO ACHIEVE IN SC, ISMAIL REPORTEDLY TOLD FRENCH THAT GOE WANTS GENERAL REVIEW OF SITUATION, WHICH EGYPTIANS BELIEVE WILL INDICATE THAT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE IS BLOCKING WAY TO MID EAST PEACE. WITH ISRAEL CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS CULPRIT, EGYPTIANS WILL THEN ASK THAT SC, PARTICULARLY GREAT POWERS, " FACE UP TO RESPONSIBILITIES." ISMAIL MENTIONED IN PASSING POSSIBLE USE BY ARABS OF OIL WEAPON, BUT ACCORDING SOURCE, THIS POINT NOT RPT NOT EMPHASIZED. ACCORDING
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FRENCH, ISMAIL CLEARLY NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN ANY NEW MECHANISM UNDER UN AEGIS.

9. SOURCE SAID THAT UK DENIED FATHERING IDEA FOR SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE, AND BRITISH HAD ATTRIBUTED THIS IDEA TO EGYPTIAN EMBASSY LONDON. ACCORDING SOURCE, FRENCH, WHO APPARENTLY ALSO HAD SHOWN SOME INTEREST IN SC COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS ARE NOW

BEARISH HAVING LEARNED FROM ISMAIL THAT GOE DOES NOT RPT NOT FAVOR
SUGGESTION. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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